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ABSTRACT

A report on music-related careers is divided into two sections. Section 1 provides summaries of occupations, including studio teaching, elementary-secondary education, postsecondary teaching, performance, composing and directing, the music industry (including the fields of instrument manufacturing, tuning, radio broadcasting, and recording), music therapy, music libraries, and church/synagogue musicians. Specific jobs within each category and general qualifications are noted. Section 2 consists of a chart which summarizes 10 career areas, subdivided into a total of 50 specialties. For each category, salary information, necessary personal qualifications, and educational requirements are listed. (LP)

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CAREERS IN MUSIC

1982

Music Educators National Conference
Reston, Virginia

SP 015 293

Careers in Music

The three national associations of music teachers and schools of music who publish this brochure represent approximately 80,000 teachers and prospective teachers of music and 520 accredited collegiate schools of music. Careers in music education are treated briefly on this page, with performance, therapy, library, and industrial music careers summarized on the back page. A chart of ten career areas and over fifty specialties, containing salary information, personal qualifications, and education requirements, will be found on the inside pages.

Studio Teaching

Individual instruction is the chief means through which a person becomes accomplished in the art of music-making. Private teachers, instructing one student at a time, comprise the largest group of music teachers in America. They sometimes teach small groups, particularly in piano.

The studio of a private teacher may be located in a home, school, office building, or music store. Those who teach in the home are self-employed, whereas others have a business relationship with the school or store. Many self-employed music teachers teach only part-time due to other responsibilities.

Individual instruction is most often given in piano or guitar. Teachers of voice and other instruments are in demand in varying degrees. Satisfactory teaching arrangements sometimes can be made with the various types of schools that are in need of individual music instructors.

Music Teaching in Elementary and Secondary Schools

Clearly, the largest number of full-time music teaching positions exist in public and private schools. In nursery, kindergarten, and elementary schools, the music teacher provides guidance for activities such as singing, listening, playing instruments, moving and dancing, composing, and experimenting with music patterns.

Teachers, supervisors, or directors of music in middle, junior high, and senior high schools provide direction for choral and instrumental organizations, small ensembles, and music theater productions. Music instruction in the secondary school also includes courses in general music, theory, music history, literature, and the related arts.

Music educators in the public schools may find opportunities for extra remuneration for service as conductors of church choirs, community music organizations, or recreational programs. In many communities, the music department of the public schools is the focal point of the musical life of the community.

Music Teaching in Colleges and Other Schools

Music teachers in institutions of higher education usually are expected to specialize in one or two areas such as music theory, music history and literature, music education, musicology, performance, electronic music, instrument repair, composition, conducting, or music therapy. The salaries for college or university music teaching vary considerably with the type of institution and its location.

In many cases, college faculties are recruited from people who have had successful professional careers as performers or success as teachers of music. However, a college music educator usually must have earned at least a master's degree in music. The music programs in institutions of higher education constitute one of the main sources of music standards and performances.

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Performance

To many young people music performance as a career means giving concerts. The glamour of becoming a concert artist attracts many people, but it should be realized from the outset that opportunities for a career in music performance are very limited and that great perseverance and stamina are required for success. The vast majority of performers combine their activities with other careers in music. Concert performers pay their own travel and promotional expenses and management fees.

Composer and Conductor

Very few composers make a living from composing, but the nonmonetary rewards for writing classical or popular music are great. Some composers earn a living arranging music for school performance groups or writing music for radio or television advertising. Conductors, like composers, usually rely on supplemental income from teaching or guest appearances.

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The following organizations supplied information for this chart: American Choral Directors Association, American Federation of Musicians, American Guild of Organists, American Music Center, American Symphony Orchestra League, College Band Directors National Association, Music Educators National Conference, Music Teachers National Association, National Association for Music Therapy, Inc., National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors, National Association of Music Merchants, National Association of Pastoral Musicians, National Association of Schools of Music, National Music Publishers Association, National School Orchestra Association, Recording Industry Association of America.

Music Industry

Many communities throughout the country use staffs experienced in performance management. The music industry absorbs people trained in music for designing, manufacturing, and selling music instruments, accessories, and music. In the field of general industry, there has been a demand for knowledgeable and experienced musicians to direct the many phases of music programs. Music tuners, technicians, repairpersons, and instrument restorers are in demand in most areas of the country. The broadcasting industry employs television and radio music directors, producers, recording engineers, and announcers.

Music Therapist

With increased awareness of the rights of handicapped children and adults, the importance of trained music therapists has increased. These highly skilled individuals combine music, teaching, and therapy to help persons with disabilities attain physical and mental health. Emotional stability and physical stamina are essential for competent therapists.

Music Librarian

Colleges and public libraries offer opportunities for trained music specialists with a knowledge of library and research techniques. Music librarians are involved in research and reference, indexing, cataloging, selecting materials for purchase, and community relations. Some opportunities for music librarians also exist in radio, television, and motion pictures.

Church/Synagogue Musician

A career as a church or synagogue music director or organist combines music performance and teaching. Most musicians for religious institutions are employed part-time, although large congregations may employ a full-time music director or minister of music. In addition to being competent performers, religious musicians must understand music composition, transposition, and arranging, and must be familiar with the theology and liturgy of worship.

In addition to the careers in music mentioned above, some opportunities exist for musicologists, music business attorneys, architectural acoustics consultants, and community arts program managers. In the publishing industry, most large newspapers and magazines, and many smaller periodicals, hire a music reporter or critic who combines knowledge and enjoyment of music with a writing or editing career. Other careers include music historian, biographer, and lyricist. Each of the various music careers reflects dignity and prestige, and serves to bring satisfaction and happiness to the lives of countless people. Thousands of persons in the United States find great pleasure through music as an avocation. A number of the occupational areas described in this brochure are carried out on a nonprofessional basis, particularly in small communities.

Careers in Music	Opportunity for Employment	Approximate Earnings	Personal Qualifications
Teacher/Supervisor	1. Public school 2. Parochial school 3. College, university, conservatory 4. Private school, studio 5. Supervisor, consultant 6. Administrator, university	1. $8,250-$24,000 2. $8,000-$20,500 3. $10,000-$36,000 4. $5-$60 per lesson 5. $12,500-$36,000 6. $20,000-$48,000 *Some positions are less than 12 months.	Musical talent Ability to work with people Ambition to continually study and improve Be inspiring, convincing, patient Enjoy people and desire to help them learn
Music Therapist	1. Hospitals: civilian, veteran 2. Clinics for handicapped children 3. Corrective institutions 4. Special education facilities 5. Nursing homes 6. Private practice	$14,000-$30,000	Musical talent and skill Ability to work with handicapped people Human understanding Enjoy people and desire to help them attain physical and mental health
Instrumentalist	1. Armed forces: bands, orchestras 2. Symphony orchestra 3. Concert band (very limited) 4. Dance band, nightclub 5. Radio (very limited) 6. National TV (very limited) 7. Small ensemble 8. Concert soloist (very limited) 9. Rock or jazz group 10. Clinician	1. Base pay 2. $200-$650 per week (22-52 weeks) 3. $400-$500 per week 4. $250-$450 per week 5. $280+ per week 6. $1,000-$1,500 per week 7. $20-$750 per concert 8. $500-open per concert 9. Great variance in income 10. $0-$600 per day	Musical talent and skill Ability to work with people Ambition to continually study and improve
Vocalist	1. Church choir soloist 2. Community choral group 3. Radio, TV shows 4. Dance band, nightclub 5. Concert choral group 6. Opera chorus (professional) 7. Opera soloist (very limited) 8. Concert soloist (very limited)	1. $30-$500 per performance 2. $100-$1,500 yearly 3. Local: $50 and up per show Network: $85 and up per show 4. $165 and up per week 5. $45 and up per performance 6. $220-$420 per week 7. $220-$4,800 per performance 8. $220-open	Musical talent and skill Ability to work with people Ambition to continually study and improve Fine voice Showmanship
Religious Musician	1. Religious choir soloist 2. Minister of music 3. Choir director	$2,500-$22,500 part-time (less than 35 hours per week) $12,000-$35,000 full-time	Musical talent Interest in religion and religious music Ability to work with people
Composer **Arranger** **Orchestrator** **Copyist**	1. Educational music, art music 2. Commercial: popular, films, TV	Commissions vary. Performance rights fees—10% composer, 5% arranger. Royalties: 2¢ per sale on music recordings.	Great musical talent Creativity Continual perseverance Confidence
Conductor	1. Choir 2. Dance bands 3. Concert band (very limited) 4. Symphony (very limited) 5. Opera (very limited) 6. Choral group (very limited)	1. See: Religious Musician (above) 2. $220-$900 per week 3. $500-$780 per week 4. $1,750-open* 5. $6,500-open* 6. $6,500-open* *Depends on amount of work.	Great musical talent Leadership Superior diplomacy Dynamic and unique stage personality
Related Careers			
Tuner/Technician **Instrument Repair**	1. Private business 2. Dealer 3. Factory 4. Contract with college, university, conservatory	1. $10,000-$26,500 (pays own expenses) 2. $10,000-$26,500 3. $8,000-$20,000 4. $8,000-$24,000	Mechanical talent Ability to work with people Interest in music and instruments
Music Industry	1. Publisher or editor: music, books, periodicals 2. Manufacturer: instruments, recordings 3. Manager, booking agent 4. Music theater 5. Music dealer 6. Salesperson 7. Newspaper critic, reporter 8. Radio music producer	According to the wage and salary scale of each industry. Varies widely.	Ability to work with people Interest in music and business
Music Librarian	1. College, university, conservatory 2. Public library 3. Orchestra, band, chorus (very limited) 4. Radio, TV station music coordinator	1. $10,000-$20,000 (may be augmented by teaching) 2. $9,000-$20,000 3. Up to $15,000 4. $9,500-$17,000	Ability to work with people Interest in music, books, recordings, professional problems, and research

Careers in Music	Knowledge and Skills Required	Recommended Precollege Training	Minimum College Training Required
Teacher/Supervisor	Broad cultural background Extensive knowledge of music Performance skill on one instrument or voice Ability and skill in teaching people Administrative ability necessary for supervisor	Completion of high school Ability to read music Some performance skill on one instrument or voice Study of music in school and privately as much as possible Keyboard skill recommended	Public school: teaching certificate, bachelor's degree College, university: doctoral degree or equivalent training All others: degrees not always required but the equivalent training is necessary
Music Therapist	Competent and versatile musician Practical facility on piano, guitar, or other instruments Knowledge of instruments and voice, behavioral and physical sciences	Same as for teachers	Bachelor's degree in music therapy
Instrumentalist	Specialized skill in one or more instruments Fluency in sight-reading, transposing, improvising Skill in ensemble playing Knowledge of instrumental literature	Completion of high school Ability to read music Some performance skill on one instrument Experience in high school orchestra, band, or small ensembles Solo experience	Degrees not always required but the equivalent training is usually necessary
Vocalist	Specialized skill in singing and interpretation of songs Knowledge of choral music techniques Knowledge of foreign languages and vocal literature Skill in sightsinging and quick memorizing Practical facility at the piano	Completion of high school Ability to read music Background in piano Some performance skill in singing Experience in singing groups	Degrees not always required but the equivalent training is usually necessary
Religious Musician	Understanding of liturgy Conducting Voice instruction techniques Fluency in sight-reading, transposing, improvising on the organ	Completion of high school Ability to read music Keyboard skill	Degrees in organ or sacred music not always required but the equivalent training is necessary
Composer **Arranger** **Orchestrator** **Copyist**	Superior musicianship in theory, literature Understanding of qualities and limitations of instruments and voices Experience in playing, singing	Completion of high school Ability to read music Some performance skill on one or more instruments Experience in playing, singing	College degrees not always required but the equivalent training is necessary
Conductor	Superior musicianship Skill in group management Decisive and expressive baton technique Specialized skill on one instrument or voice	Completion of high school Ability to read music Some performance skill on piano and one instrument or voice Experience in vocal or instrumental groups	Graduate music degree not always required but the equivalent training is necessary
Related Careers			
Tuner/Technician **Instrument Repair**	Specialized skill in tuning, rebuilding, or repairing instruments	Completion of high school Work experience in one or more areas of tuning, rebuilding, and repairing instruments	College degrees not usually required. At least 2-3 years training or apprenticeship is generally necessary.
Music Industry	Specialized skill and knowledge in one or more of the music industries	Completion of high school Experience in one or more of the music industries	College degrees not always required but recommended
Music Librarian	Thorough knowledge of music and musicology Working knowledge of foreign languages (German and French) Library training or some knowledge of library and research techniques Some knowledge of copyright and performance rights	Completion of high school	Bachelor's degree with major in music history or theory (preferably plus at least one year graduate study in musicology) Graduate library degree